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In The News

All Adult Basic Education to be Tuition-free in B.C.

College Heights Secondary to Receive Expansion

Funding to Support Lifelong Learning

B.C. Sets National Standard in Promoting Student Health

Healthy, Safe Schools Focus of New School Year

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Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

Earlier today we expanded ReadNow BC, the Province's literacy action plan, by investing another $17.5 million so that adult basic education is tuition-free for all students. This is a great way to celebrate International Literacy Day, Sept. 8, and furthers our goal of making British Columbia the best-educated, most literate place on the continent.

Effective immediately, all students can take courses free of charge through the Province's virtual school, LearnNowBC, at www.LearnNowBC.ca. Free online courses, available anytime and anywhere in the province, will give adult learners more options than ever before.

Add to that the fact that as of January 2008, all students will also have access to tuition-free adult basic education courses at 18 B.C. public post-secondary institutions.

And finally, because we think that everyone who wants to upgrade their education should be able to do so for free and through a variety of convenient options, we will work with school districts to ensure that in September 2008 all students can take free adult basic education courses at district facilities.

ReadNow BC helps adults, Aboriginal people, K-12 students and preschoolers gain the skills they need to succeed. Introduced in January with an investment of $27 million, today's announcement brings that investment to nearly $44.5 million. Please take a minute to visit the newly launched ReadNow BC website at www.readnowbc.ca. Read more.

B.C. Leads Push for Student Health

Education Minister Shirley Bond and ActNowBC Minister Gordon Hogg recently announced Canada's most aggressive initiative yet to fight obesity in children and youth. B.C. will soon require 30 minutes of daily physical activity for students. The Province is also fast-tracking the removal of junk food from schools. Read more or try the Act Now Activity Challenge.

Education Minister Shirley Bond and Minister of State for Act Now Gordon Hogg perform chair aerobics with students from Waverley elementary school in Vancouver.

HOT TOPIC

One in four B.C. school children is overweight or obese. Everyone's must act now to help these children and future generations. That lth why B.C. is leading Canada with the most aggressive student hea initiative in the country, removing junk food from schools and hild. mandating 30 minutes of daily physical activity for every school c By September 2008, every B.C. school will be junk food-free and every student exercising.

This has the support of many parents, principals, school districts, is to doctors, and other groups across the province. And while the idea help help students make healthy choices, these new policies may also e boost student achievement because students who eat well and ar physically active perform better in school.

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Supports to promote student health include a daily physical activi f the website to help schools, students and parents understand some o healthy options available to them. The Province has also produce booklets with tips and ideas on how parents can help their child b s K- physically active and eat well. Four different booklets cover grade 11 3, 4-7, 8-9 and 10-12, with each available in English, French and other languages. The books are also available online.

To further promote healthy choices and lifestyles in children and acco youth, the Province recently introduced legislation prohibiting toba use on both public and independent school property. The resulting tobacco ban came into effect for the first day of school. Schools, school grounds and other relevant property are now tobacco free.

Read more about B.C.'s new daily physical activity policy.

Reading Corner

Everything is changing for thirteen-year-old Alecia: she must accept her new stepfather, a new school, and her friends' new interest in boys. The trouble is that Alecia desperately wants her soccer team, the Vancouver Burrards, to stay the same, and to succeed. This easy-to-read novel will appeal to girls who like soccer. The book is suitable for students in grades 6-7.

Alecia's Challen
Sandra Diersch